

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASH DC IMMEDIATE 7156

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TAGS: EGEN, OECD

SUBJECT: DRAFT MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE ON COMMODITIES

REF: USOECD 12684

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT TABLED BY UK DEL AT MAY 21 HEADS
OF DEL MEETING TO REPLACE DRAFT COMMUNIQUE LANGUAGE
ON COMMODITIES REPORTED IN REFTEL.

BEGIN TEXT:

7. MINISTERS STRESSED THAT ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF PRIMARY
COMMODITIES ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE WORLD ECONOMY. THEY
RECOGNIZED THE INTERDEPENDENCE AND COMMON INTEREST OF
PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS WHETHER THEY BE IN DEVELOPED OR
IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES PARTICULARLY IN RELATION TO
THE AVOIDANCE OF EXCESSIVE FLUCTUATIONS IN COMMODITY
MARKETS AND TO THE IMPORTANCE TO PRODUCERS OF ASSURED
ACCESS TO MARKETS AND TO CONSUMERS OF SECURE SUPPLIES.
THESE QUESTIONS ARE OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO THOSE DE-
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VELOPING COUNTRIES WHICH ARE HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON EX-

PORT EARNINGS FROM PRIMARY COMMODITIES.

8. RECOGNIZING THAT CIRCUMSTANCES VARY GREATLY BETWEEN DIFFERENT COMMODITIES AND GROUPS OF COMMODITIES, MINISTERS AGREED ON THE NEED FOR A MORE ACTIVE AND CONCERTED POLICY TOWARDS COMMODITIES. THIS SHOULD IN PARTICULAR:

ENABLE COMMODITY TRADE TO BE CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH EQUITABLE ARRANGEMENTS WORKED OUT IN AGREEMENT BETWEEN PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS;

PROMOTE LONGER RUN EQUILIBRIUM BETWEEN PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION, TAILORED TO SUIT THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE COMMODITY OR COMMODITIES IN QUESTION;

BE DESIGNED BOTH TO HELP THE DEVELOPING PRODUCER COUNTRIES AND, AT THE SAME TIME, TO IMPROVE EFFICIENT DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF COMMODITIES. THIS COULD BE BY MEANS OF IMPROVED MARKET OUTLETS AND INCREASED LOCAL PROCESSING WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES' PLANS FOR INDUSTRIALIZATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND BY THE INTRODUCTION OF SCHEMES FOR THE STABILIZATION OF EXPORT EARNINGS FROM COMMODITIES FOR THE POORER PRODUCING COUNTRIES.

9. WITH REGARD TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, IT WAS AGREED THAT ADVANTAGE SHOULD BE TAKEN OF THE BETTER SUPPLY POSITION EXPECTED THIS YEAR TO BEGIN RE-BUILDING SECURITY STOCKS OF ESSENTIAL FOODSTUFFS, THE PRODUCTION OF WHICH IT WAS STRESSED SHOULD ALSO BE EXPANDED.

10. MINISTERS AGREED, WITH THESE CONSIDERATIONS IN MIND, THAT SUCH A COMMODITY POLICY SHOULD BE PURSUED ACTIVELY IN THE VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL BODIES CONCERNED WITH A VIEW TO REACHING CONCRETE SOLUTIONS BASED ON COOPERATION BETWEEN PRODUCING AND CONSUMING COUNTRIES. THEY WELCOMED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A HIGH LEVEL GROUP IN THE OECD TO CONSIDER SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR ACTION BOTH ON GENERAL ASPECTS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES' COMMODITY POLICIES AND ON PARTICULAR COMMODITIES. END TEXT.
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